

## THE SECOND CHANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

*The bipartisan Second Chance Act, passed into law in 2008, reduced prison costs and improved public safety by giving federal, state, and local governments additional tools to help inmates more successfully reintegrate into their communities upon release and avoid reoffending. The bipartisan Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013 improves and consolidates the programs authorized by the Second Chance Act, and reauthorizes them at reduced levels to better reflect current appropriations.*

### **The Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013 improves state and local grant programs to promote successful prisoner reentry and improve public safety.**

- When inmates are released from prison, they face myriad challenges, including finding housing and employment, combating substance abuse, and physical and mental health problems. Without community support, they are less likely to reintegrate into their communities, and more likely to offend again, making us less safe.
- The Second Chance Act and this reauthorization are firmly grounded in evidence-based practices. This legislation continues targeted funding through 2018 for reentry programs at the state and local level that have been proven to reduce recidivism, lead to better outcomes for those released from prison, and save prison costs.
- The bill provides separate planning and implementation grants to ensure that projects are well developed at each stage and informed by research and best practices.
- The Second Chance reauthorization expands its impact by adding nonprofit organizations to allowable grantees for grants for programs promoting family-based substance abuse treatment and career training.
- The bill repeals several provisions calling for studies that have been completed and removes support for programs for which other funding sources have been identified. It also consolidates the reentry court program into the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Demonstration projects.

### **The Second Chance Reauthorization Act reduces Bureau of Prison costs and saves taxpayer dollars by improving federal reentry policy.**

- While the United States is home to only 5% of the world's population, it is responsible for 25% of the world's prison population. This has led to prison overcrowding and out-of-control spending on corrections in the United States, without a correlation in public safety. Currently, the Department of Justice spends over 25% of its budget on the Bureau of Prisons – this is money that would otherwise be spent on other programs like federal investigators and prosecutors, and support for state and local governments.
- The Second Chance Reauthorization Act attempts to address the expanding prison population by continuing the Elderly and Family Reunification for Certain Non-Violent Offenders Pilot Program and modestly expands the pool of eligible inmates.

### **The Second Chance Reauthorization Act promotes accountability.**

- The bill requires periodic audits of grantees to ensure that federal dollars are responsibly spent. Grantees with unresolved audits will not be eligible for funding.